*Translation from Bulgarian!*

**DECLARATION OF THE PROSECUTORS’ COLLEGE OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL** in connection with the terrorist act against the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Bulgaria, his family and the employees of the National Service for Protection on May 1, 2023

The Prosecutors’ College of the Supreme Judicial Council strongly condemns the cruel assault against the Bulgarian State in the face of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Ivan Geshev, his family and the employees of the National Service for Protection, in the performance of their professional duties. We assess the attempt on Mr. Geshev that happened on 01.05.2023 on the road Samokov - Sofia, as a terrorist attack, without an analogue in our recent history, and as a sign of the deepening destructive processes and attempts to control the State institutions. This is another attack by escalating extremism against the Bulgarian Prosecutor's office, directed against its successes in the fight against crime and its indisputable contribution to international investigations.

The attack against the Prosecutor General undermines the independence of the judiciary and is against Bulgarian prosecutors and investigators, against European values and the foundations of democracy and the principles of the rule of law.

The Prosecutors’ college of the SJC considers what happened to be an attempt to destabilize the institution that works daily to protect the rights and interests of citizens. Moreover, we fear that the aim is to cause dismay and uncertainty in the State, mistrust its security and stability, and undermine confidence in the prosecution.

We express concern that what happened will discredit the Republic of Bulgaria and will have an extremely negative international response! It is incompatible with the democratic image of our country, which is a member of the European Union and NATO and which has chosen the path of the rule of law and democratic values for its development!

We express alarm at this unprecedented and arrogant attack against the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, against the life of Mr. Geshev, his family and the accompanying employees from the National Service for Protection, and we express our support to all of them!

The Prosecutors’ College of the SJC believes in the joint work of the Bulgarian institutions, in the professionalism of their employees, and expresses confidence that their actions will lead to the disclosure and punishment in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation of the instigators and perpetrators of the attempt against the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Bulgaria!

We call on the Members of the 49th National Assembly and all Bulgarian politicians to condemn such extremism as foreign to the Bulgarian society and oppose it!

The Declaration will be sent to the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Representation of the European Commission, the Embassies of the Member States of the European Union in the Republic of Bulgaria, the US Embassy, the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission, the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors, the International Association of Prosecutors, the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary, the GRECO Commission and the European Chief Prosecutor.

*The Declaration was adopted in accordance with the Mechanism (procedure) for public reaction of the Prosecutors’ College of the Supreme Judicial Council in cases of infringement of the independence and good name of prosecutors and investigators, approved by Decision of the Prosecutors’ College of the Supreme Judicial Council under Protocol No. 9 of 20 March 2019.*